

What is claimed is:

- 1     1.    A pulse modulator for conversion of a complex  
2     input signal ( $x(t)$ ) to a pulsed signal ( $y(t)$ ),  
3     characterized by  
4     -    a subtraction stage (1) which produces a control  
5     error signal from the difference between the complex  
6     input signal ( $x(t)$ ) and a feedback signal (2),  
7     -    a single conversion stage, which converts the  
8     control error signal to a control signal (7);  
9     -    a first multiplication stage (8), which multiplies  
10    the control signal (7) by a complex mixing signal  
11    oscillating at the frequency  $\omega_0$ , and thus produces at  
12    least one of a real part (11) and an imaginary part  
13    of a control signal which has been up-mixed by  $\omega_0$ ;  
14    -    a quantization stage (12), which quantizes at least  
15    one of the real part and imaginary part of the  
16    control signal which has been up-mixed by  $\omega_0$  and thus  
17    produces the pulsed signal ( $y(t)$ );  
18    -    a feedback unit, which uses the pulsed signal ( $y(t)$ )  
19    to produce the feedback signal (2) for the  
20    subtraction stage.

2. The pulse modulator as claimed in claim 1,  
characterized in that the pulse modulator has an  
in-phase signal path for processing of the real part of  
the input signal, as well as a quadrature signal path  
for processing of the imaginary part of the input  
signal.

3. The pulse modulator as claimed in claim 1 or 2,  
characterized in that the control error signal, the  
control signal and the feedback signal are each complex  
signals, which each have a real signal component as  
well as an imaginary signal component.

4. The pulse modulator as claimed in one of the  
preceding claims, characterized in that the signal  
conversion stage has an integrator stage which  
integrates the control error signal and produces an  
integrated signal as the control signal.

5. The pulse modulator as claimed in claim 4,  
characterized in that the integrator stage has a first  
integrator for the in-phase signal path (14) and a  
second integrator for the quadrature signal path (15),  
with the first integrator integrating the real part of  
the control error signal, and with the second  
integrator integrating the imaginary part of the  
control error signal.

6. The pulse modulator as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the signal conversion stage has an amplifier stage (6).

7. The pulse modulator as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first multiplication stage has a first multiplier (23) for the in-phase signal path and a second multiplier (33) for the quadrature signal path, with the first multiplier multiplying the real part (22) of the control signal by the real part of the complex mixing signal oscillating at the frequency  $\omega_0$ , and thus producing a first result signal (24), and with the second multiplier (33) multiplying the imaginary part (32) of the control signal by the imaginary part of the complex mixing signal oscillating at the frequency  $\omega_0$ , and thus producing a second result signal (34).

8. The pulse modulator as claimed in claim 7, characterized by an adder (25) which adds the first result signal (24) from the first multiplier and the second result signal (34) from the second multiplier to form a sum signal (35) in order to determine the real part of the up-mixed control signal.

9. The pulse modulator as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the quantization stage quantizes the sum signal produced by the adder.

1 10. The pulse modulator as claimed in one of the  
2 preceding claims, characterized in that a noise level  
3 is added to the input signal to the quantization stage.

1 11. The pulse modulator as claimed in one of the  
2 preceding claims, characterized in that the  
3 quantization stage carries out binary quantization or  
4 ternary quantization of its respective input signal.

1 12. The pulse modulator as claimed in one of the  
2 preceding claims, characterized in that the feedback  
3 unit has a second multiplication stage (13), which  
4 multiplies the pulsed signal by a complex-conjugate  
5 mixing signal oscillating at the frequency  $\omega_0$ , and thus  
6 produces the feedback signal (2) down-mixed by  $\omega_0$ , for  
7 the subtractor.

1 13. The pulse modulator as claimed in claim 12,  
2 characterized in that the second multiplication stage  
3 has a third multiplier (37) for production of the real  
4 part (17) of the feedback signal and has a fourth  
5 multiplier (38) for production of the imaginary part  
6 (27) of the feedback signal, with the third multiplier  
7 (37) multiplying the pulsed signal by the real part of  
8 the complex-conjugate mixing signal oscillating at the  
9 frequency  $\omega_0$ , and with the fourth multiplier (38)  
10 multiplying the pulsed signal by the imaginary part of  
11 the complex-conjugate mixing signal at the frequency  $\omega_0$ .

1 14. The pulse modulator as claimed in one of the  
2 preceding claims, characterized in that the pulse  
3 modulator is operated at a sampling frequency  $\omega_A$  which  
4 is 2 to 1000 times higher than the mixing frequency  $\omega_0$ .

1 15. The pulse modulator as claimed in one of the  
2 preceding claims, characterized in that the pulse  
3 modulator is implemented with the aid of a digital  
4 signal processor.

1 16. A drive circuit for a micromechanical resonator  
2 which has at least one pulse modulator as claimed in  
3 one of claims 1 to 15.

1 17. The drive circuit as claimed in claim 16,  
2 characterized in that the pulsed signal which is  
3 produced by the at least one pulse modulator is used  
4 for electrostatic oscillation stimulation of the  
5 resonator.

1 18. The drive circuit as claimed in claim 16 or 17,  
2 characterized in that the mixing frequency  $\omega_0$  of the  
3 pulsed modulator corresponds to one resonant frequency  
4 of the resonator.

1 19. A frequency generator for synthesis of a pulsed  
2 signal at a predetermined frequency and with a  
3 predetermined phase, which has at least one pulse  
4 modulator as claimed in one of claims 1 to 15.

1 20. The frequency generator as claimed in claim 19 or  
2 20, characterized in that the pulse modulator is  
3 followed by a bandpass filter, preferably a crystal or  
4 ceramic filter.

1 21. A method for pulse modulation of a complex input  
2 signal, characterized by the following steps:  
3 - production of a control error signal from the  
4 difference between the complex input signal ( $x(t)$ )  
5 and a feedback signal (2);  
6 - conversion of the control error signal to a control  
7 signal (7);  
8 - multiplication of the control signal (7) by a  
9 complex mixing signal oscillating at the frequency  
10  $\omega_0$ , with at least one of the real part (11) and  
11 imaginary part of a control signal, up-mixed by  $\omega_0$ ,  
12 being produced;  
13 - quantization of at least one of the real part (11)  
14 and imaginary part of the control signal, up-mixed  
15 by  $\omega_0$ , in order to produce a pulsed signal ( $y(t)$ );  
16 - production of the feedback signal (2) from the  
17 pulsed signal ( $y(t)$ ).

1 22. The method as claimed in claim 21, characterized  
2 in that the control error signal, the control signal  
3 and the feedback signal are each complex signals, which  
4 each have a real signal component as well as an  
5 imaginary signal component.

1 23. The method as claimed in claim 21 or claim 22,  
2 characterized in that the control error signal is  
3 converted to the control signal by integrating the  
4 control error signal.

1 24. The method as claimed in one of claims 21 to 23,  
2 characterized in that the real part of the control  
3 signal is multiplied by the real part of the complex  
4 mixing signal oscillating at the frequency  $\omega_0$ , and a  
5 first result signal is thus produced, and in that the  
6 imaginary part of the control signal is multiplied by  
7 the imaginary part of the complex mixing signal  
8 oscillating at the frequency  $\omega_0$ , and a second result  
9 signal is thus produced.

1 25. The method as claimed in claim 24, characterized  
2 in that the first result signal and the second result  
3 signal are added to form a sum signal in order to  
4 determine the real part of the up-mixed control signal.

1 26. The method as claimed in claim 25, characterized  
2 in that the sum signal is quantized in order to produce  
3 the pulsed signal.

1 27. The method as claimed in one of claims 21 to 26,  
2 characterized in that a noise level is added before the  
3 quantization of at least one of the real part and  
4 imaginary part of the control signal up-mixed by  $\omega_0$ .

1 28. The method as claimed in one of claims 21 to 27,  
2 characterized in that the feedback signal is produced  
3 by multiplying the pulsed signal by a complex-conjugate  
4 mixing signal oscillating at the frequency  $\omega_0$ .

1 29. The method as claimed in one of claims 21 to 28,  
2 characterized in that the pulsed signal is used for  
3 electrostatic oscillation stimulation of a  
4 micromechanical resonator.

1 30. The method as claimed in claim 29, characterized  
2 in that the mixing frequency  $\omega_0$  corresponds to one  
3 resonant frequency of the micromechanical resonator.

1 31. A computer program product, which has means for  
2 carrying out the method steps as claimed in one of  
3 claims 21 to 30 on a computer, a digital signal  
4 processor or the like.